commence the procurement of Copra under PSS. The State-wise procurement of Copra commenced as follows :—

State/UT	Date
A & N Islands	1-04-2001
Goa	13-10-2001
Karnataka	29-10-2001

Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh—These State Governments are in the process of finalizing the arrangements for procurement of Copra under PSS through their State agencies. The procurement is likely to commence soon.

(c) NAFED is the Central Nodal Agency for procurement of Oilseeds and Pulses including Copra under the PSS. NAFED in turn involves State Level Cooperative Federations for procurement under the Scheme. NAFED has so far procured a quantity of 10,107 MTs of Copra under PSS during 2001 season.

National Disaster Management Plan

1982. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY :

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been considering VSA type disaster management plan;

(b) whether a National Disaster Management Plan has been finalized;

(c) if so, what are its salient features;

(d) if not, what is the present stage; and

(e) by when a decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (e) A National Committee on Disaster Management has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister with a wide mandate which includes deliberating on necessary institutional and legislative measures needed for an effective and long-term strategy to deal with natural calamities in future. The Committee is yet to submit its Report.

Foodgrains to Chhattisgarh under Emergency Relief Fund

†1983. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the quantity of foodgrains distributed free

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of cost to Chhattisgarh from 1st November, 2000 to 31st October, 2001, under Emergency Relief Fund and the amount provided under the said fund ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : 5.28 lakh MTs. of rice were allocated to Chhattisgarh free of cost for Food for Work Programme (FFWP). An amount of Rs. 58.94 crore was also allocated from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for drought.

Amendment in the Quarantine Law

†1984. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item published in the Hindustan dated 26th October, 2001 under the caption, Quarantine Kanoon me Sanshodhan;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to amend this law; and

(c) if so, whether any provision for the necessary certification in this regard would be made through the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The news-item published in the Hindustan dated 26-10-2001 refers to the National Facility for Virus Diagnosis and Quality Control of Tissue-culture raised Planting Material by the Department of Biotechnology. It also mentions National Containment-cum-Quarantine Facility for Transgenic Planting Material set up at National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi. The imported Tissue-culture raised Planting Material is already covered under the Quarantine Law. Import of Transgenic Planting Material except for research purposes is not permitted presently. There is no proposal to amend the Quarantine Law in this regard at present.

Assistance for Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zones

1985. SHRI BHAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether financial assistance is being provided to States for development of tropical, temperate and arid zones and for development of horticulture;

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided during 2000-2001 and till date, State-wise;

(c) the names of crops identified for tissue-culture; and

(d) the details of increase in production of horticultural crops by tissue-culture ?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.